

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 8th October, 1880.

Sir

While I am ready at any moment to execute the Medal for the State Department, may I suggest objections to its composition of 750 (m) of which perhaps the department is not aware.

1. The alloy of 750 gold and 250 copper is very hard & somewhat brittle; and hence the necessity of adding more or less silver, both to soften it so as to roll and strike it, and to lighten the dark color of the pure copper alloy. If therefore the 250 (m) alloy were made of equal parts of copper and silver, the color would be good, but the alloyed gold would be but little harder than our Standard gold. The main object therefore of making the alloy of 750 (m) fine is more or less lost, or impaired. Our coin would wear about as well

2. The alloy of 750 m Gold, even if of the best color, would be much more liable to tarnish from sulphur vapors, & emanations from the body than our standard gold, becoming dingy and appearing dirty in wear.

very respectfully yours
Jat C Booth

M & R.

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent

980 1/2

U. S. Mint, Melter and Refiner's Department,
PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

Oct 8, 1880.

Asst. C. Booth
Melter and Refiner.

Objection to gold
750 fine for medals
for the State Depart
-ment for foreign
Seamen.

No. of Enclosures,

Recd Oct. 8th 1880

[Abstract:] Objecting to gold 750 fine for medals for the State Department for foreign seamen.
980 ½

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Melting and Refining Department,
Philadelphia,
October 8, 1880

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2. The alloy of 750 m gold, even if of the best color, would be much more liable to tarnish from Sulphur vapors, & emanations from the body than our standard gold, becoming dingy and appearing dirty in wear.

Very respectfully yours,
Jas. C. Booth
M & R

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent